Step 27
Crossing Paths
WHAT? TACHIBANA'S SUSPENDED AGAIN!?
YEAH, THERE WAS A NOTICE ABOUT IT ON THE BULLETIN BOARD.
DID HE GET INTO ANOTHER FIGHT?
MAYBE IT'S BECAUSE OF THAT FIGHT FROM YESTERDAY?
NEW MESSAGE
Kimura Yuuta
SUB Today's Meetup
Sorry let's cancel it today as well

NOT YOU TOO...
Again
HEY, WE HAVE MUSIC FIRST PERIOD TODAY, REMEMBER?
OH RIGHT. THANKS FOR REMINDING ME, I NEED TO GET READY.
....

ラーメン 涼
ラーメン 処
GOOD AFTERNOON.
I DON'T SUPPOSE TACHIBANA'S HERE, IS HE?
OH, IT'S OOTSUKA-CHAN!
WELCOME
Sucks though because now I don't have enough hands to help out
NOPE
HE'S SUSPENDED RIGHT NOW, SO HE'S PROHIBITED FROM COMING TO WORK TOO.
FIGURES...

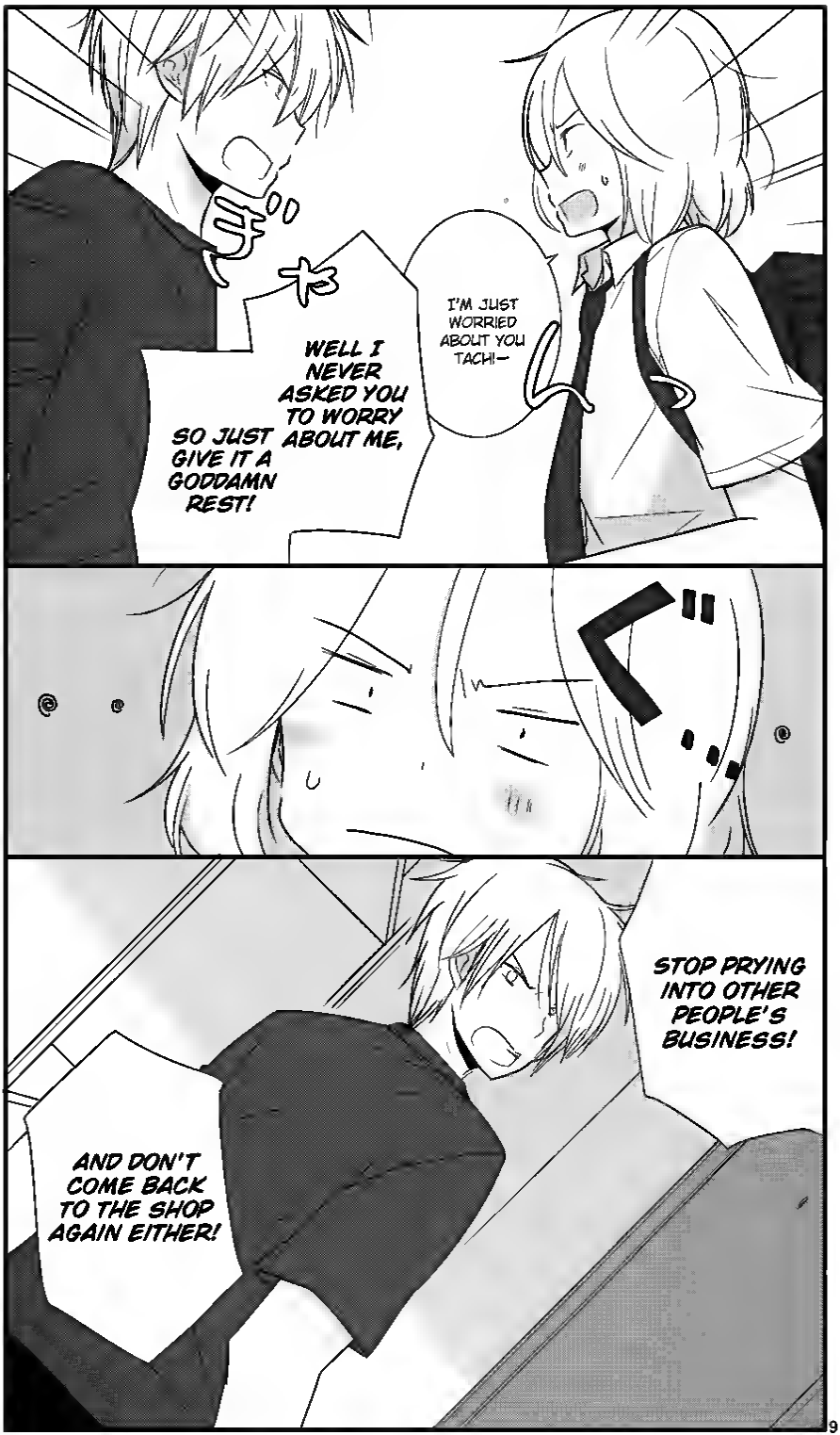
HM?
DO YOU HAVE SOME TIME RIGHT NOW, OOTSUKA-CHAN?
CAN I ASK YOU TO MAKE A DELIVERY FOR ME?
ラーメン屋
....

YO!
I CAME TO DELIVER YOUR RAMEN!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
I BET YOU HAVEN'T COOKED ANYTHING DECENT FOR YOURSELF ANYWAY.
NO, REALLY! SEE? I CAME TO GIVE YOU JUN'S RAMEN.
WHAT?
Don't screw with me
OH YEAH, HE TOLD TO GIVE THIS TO YOU TOO.
It's a note from him.
...

I asked ootsuka-chan to bring your ramen so make sure you make good use of this chance!
good luck!
P.S
next time you cause problems at school you're fired
ヘロヘロ…
BY THE WAY, I DIDN'T KNOW JUN-SAN WAS YOUR UNCLE, TACHIBANA
I was surprised to hear you two are related
JUN-SAN TOLD ME.
WHY DO YOU KNOW THAT?
ARE YOUR WOUNDS FROM YESTERDAY ALRIGHT?
I WON'T SAY YOU SHOULDN'T GET INTO FIGHTS, BUT AT LEAST KEEP IT IN MODERATION.
....
AND START COMING BACK TO SCHOOL SOON, OK?

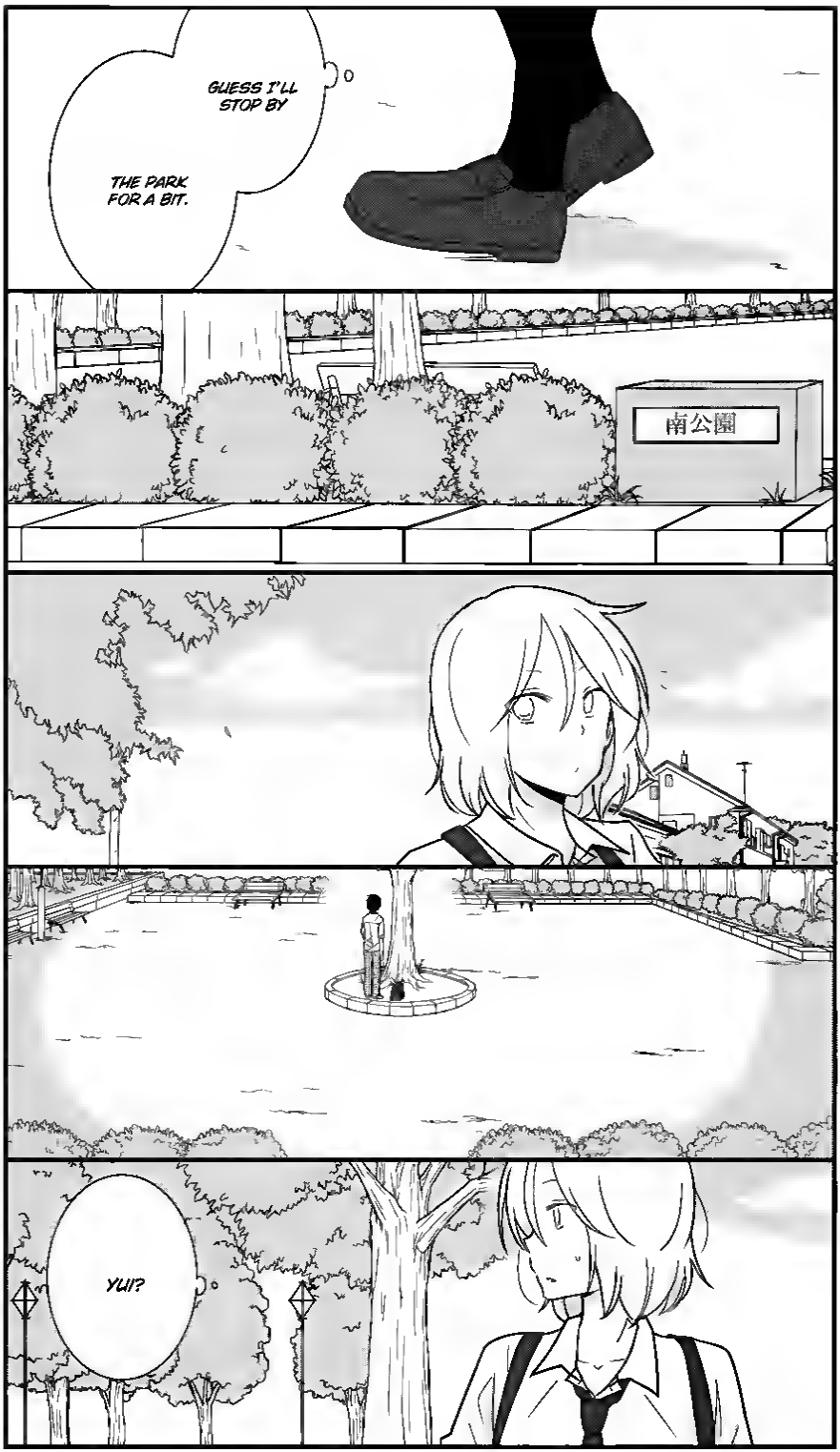
シーン…
ALRIGHT THEN—
RESERVED AS ALWAYS.
HOW MUCH...
DID JUN-SAN TELL YOU ABOUT ME?
HUH? HOW MUCH?
IT'S NOT LIKE HE TOLD ME YOUR LIFE STORY OR ANYTHING
JUST THAT YOU'VE BEEN LIVING WITH HIM ALL THROUGH MIDDLE SCHOOL.

BUT SINCE YOU'RE NOT LIVING WITH HIM ANYMORE, DOES THAT MEAN THAT...
YOU'RE LIVING ALONE RIGHT NOW?
YEAH...
I AM.
I ALWAYS THOUGHT YOU WERE A NOISY WOMAN, BUT NOW I FINALLY GET IT.
YOU'RE JUST LOOKING AROUND FOR JUICY GOSSIP TO TELL ALL YOUR FRIENDS, AREN'T YOU?
WHAT?
WAIT... ARE YOU IMPLYING I'M GOING TO TELL EVERYONE ABOUT THIS?
I WOULDN'T DO THAT!
I WONDER ABOUT THAT. WOMEN ARE CREATURES THAT LOVE TO GOSSIP AFTER ALL.
you're not fooling me
YOU DON'T SERIOUSLY THINK THAT I'M SOME KIND OF EMPTY HEADED BIMBO THAT GOES AROUND GOSSIPING ABOUT EVERYONE... DO YOU?


I'M JUST WORRIED ABOUT YOU TACHI—
WELL I NEVER ASKED YOU TO WORRY ABOUT ME,
SO JUST GIVE IT A GODDAMN REST!
STOP PRYING INTO OTHER PEOPLE'S BUSINESS!
AND DON'T COME BACK TO THE SHOP AGAIN EITHER!

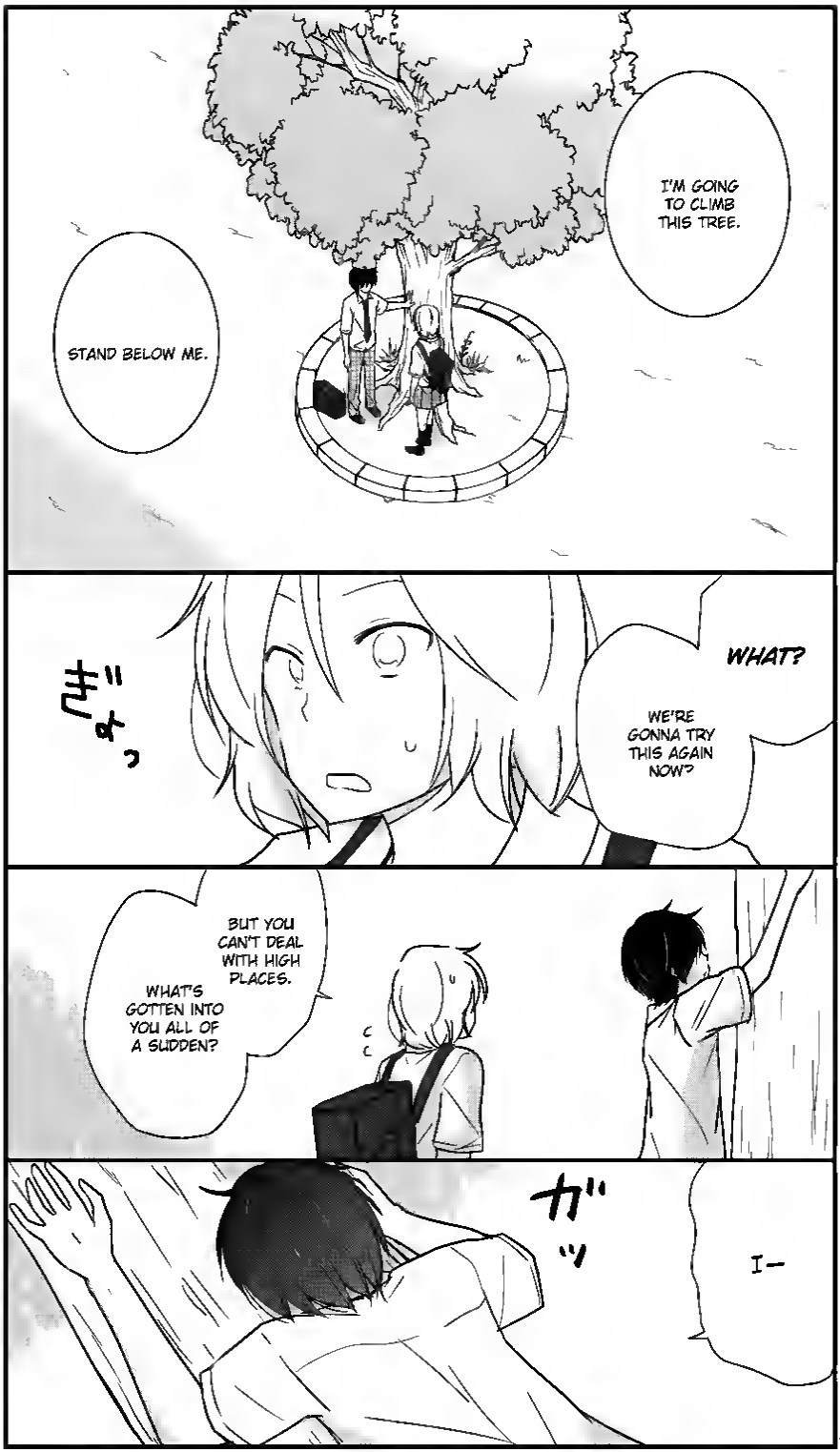
WHA—
WHAT'S HIS PROBLEM?
SUDDENLY SNAPPING AT ME LIKE THAT...
カニ
カニ
カニ
ALL I TOLD HIM WAS WHAT JUN-SAN TOLD ME.
WHY'D HE GET SO MAD ABOUT IT?
AND HE'S STILL TREATING ME LIKE SOME KIND OF EMPTY SHALLOW GIRL.
THAT BASTARD...
I'M COUNTING ON YOU.

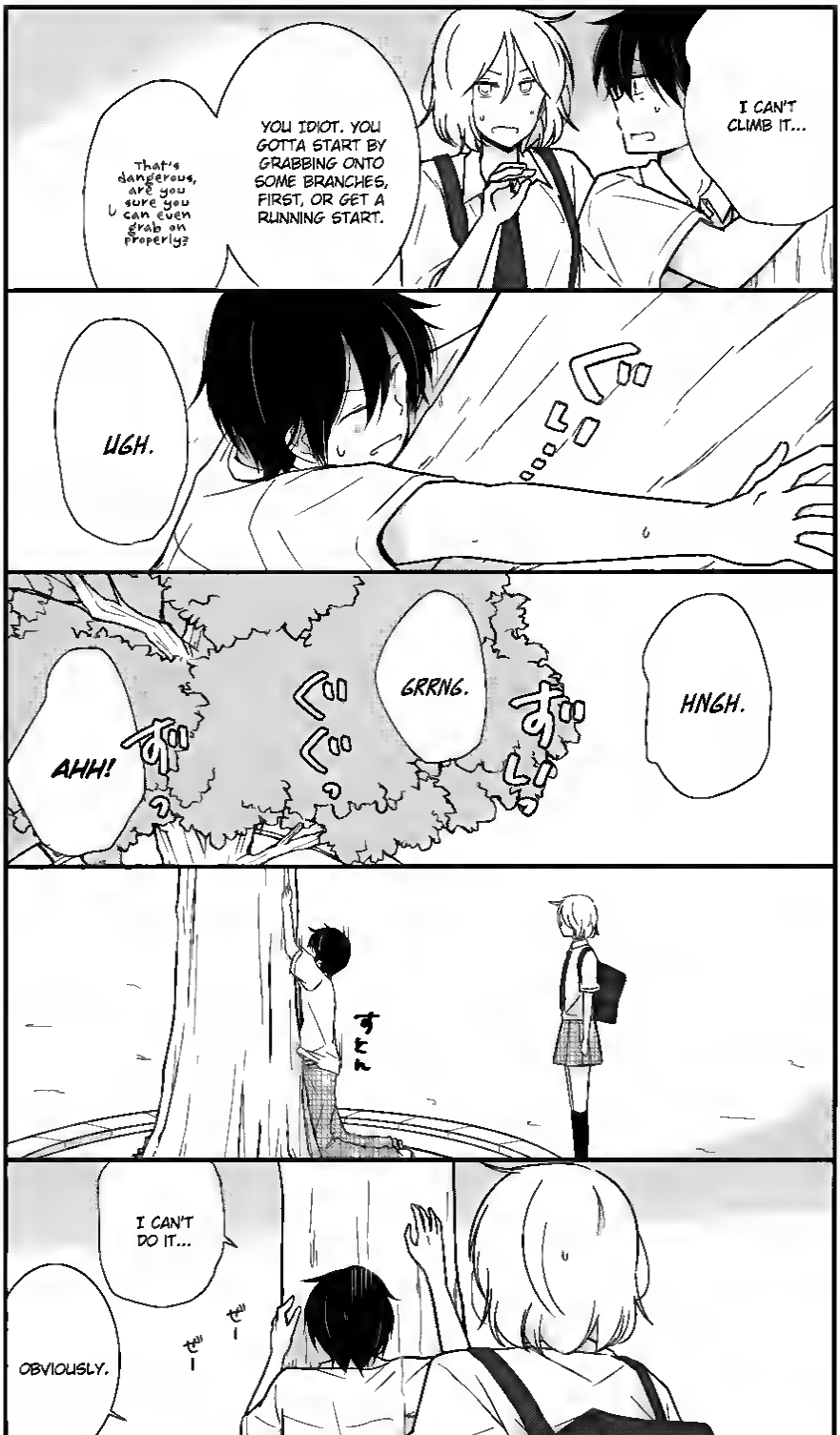
BUT SERIOUSLY...
IF HE'S GOING TO TRY AND SHUT ME OUT THAT BAD,
THEN THERE'S NOT REALLY ANYTHING I CAN DO.
ALTHOUGH... I GUESS I MIGHT HAVE BEEN A BIT TOO NOSY THERE.
MMN...
I DON'T REALLY FEEL LIKE GOING HOME JUST YET.


GUESS I'LL STOP BY
THE PARK FOR A BIT.
南公園
YUI?

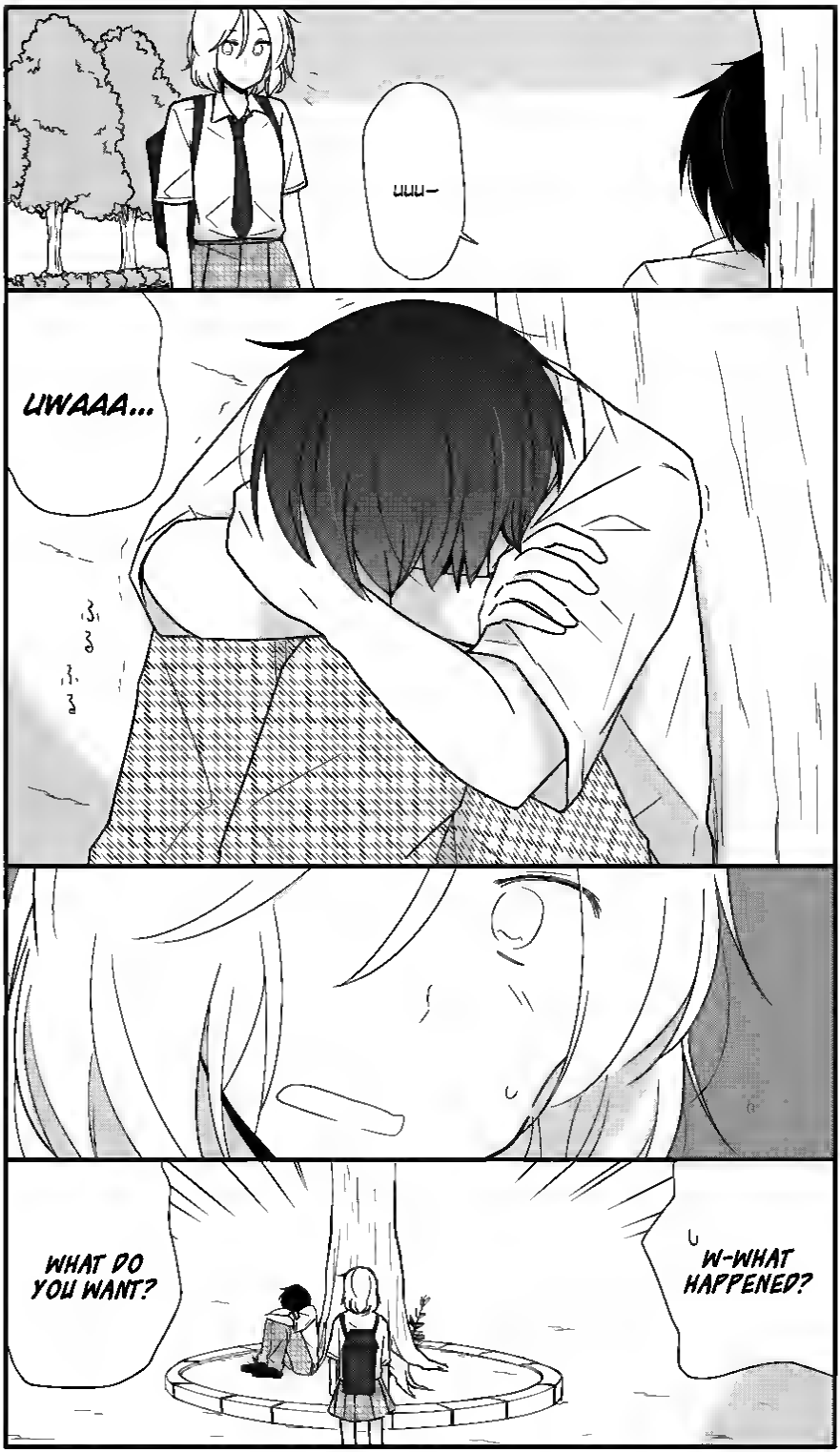
....
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
YUU—
YUUTA!?
DON'T YOU "YUUTA" ME.
YOU KEPT SKIPPING OUT ON OUR DAILY REPORTS SO I THOUGHT YOU MUST BE BUSY WITH SOMETHING.
BUT YOU DON'T LOOK VERY BUSY RIGHT NOW
SO WHY AREN'T WE HAVING OUR DAILY INFORMATION EXCHANGES?
It's been a week now

I-I'M...
SORRY.
....
Even if you apologize, that doesn't explain anything
YUUTA.


I'M GOING TO CLIMB THIS TREE.
STAND BELOW ME.
WHAT?
WE'RE GONNA TRY THIS AGAIN NOW?
BUT YOU CAN'T DEAL WITH HIGH PLACES.
WHAT'S GOTTEN INTO YOU ALL OF A SUDDEN?
I-


I CAN'T CLIMB IT...
YOU IDIOT. YOU GOTTA START BY GRABBING ONTO SOME BRANCHES, FIRST, OR GET A RUNNING START.
That's dangerous, are you sure you can even grab on properly?
UGH.
HNGH.
GRRNG.
AHH!
すとん
I CAN'T DO IT...
OBVIOUSLY.
せーの
せーの

ストン…
YUI…
YOU KNOW YOU'RE BAD WITH HEIGHTS, AND YOU DON'T EXERCISE EITHER.
STOP BEFORE YOU HURT YOURSELF.
REMEMBER HOW BEFORE WE TRIED EVERYTHING BUT THIS, PRECISELY BECAUSE YOU WERE TOO SCARED?
WHY THE SUDDEN CHANGE OF HEART?
BECAUSE...
BECAUSE THIS IS THE ONLY THING WE HAVEN'T TRIED YET.
YOU MEAN WHERE "YUUTA" CLIMBS THE TREE AND FALLS ONTO "YUI"?
YEAH.
I MEAN WE THOUGHT OF IT BEFORE.
EITHER WAY, WE'RE NOT IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ANYMORE. THE TREE'S GOTTEN TOO BIG.


uuu–
UWAAA...
W-WHAT HAPPENED?
WHAT DO YOU WANT?

WHAT...
YOU ASK?
ISN'T IT OBVIOUS?
I WANT TO GO BACK TO BEING ME...

YU—
STOP PRYING INTO OTHER PEOPLES' BUSINESS!
YUI...

ストン
SORRY..
I ALWAYS JUST END UP JUST..
I—
IT'S FINE.
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.

IF YOU DON'T WANT TO TELL ME WHY
YOU DON'T HAVE TO.
BUT IF YOU EVER FEEL LIKE TALKING THOUGH, I'LL BE HERE.
THANKS.

SHISYUNKI

BITTER CHANGE

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